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Member Opportunities

WTO Seminar on Electronic Documentation – June 28

Via the IGTC NAEGA member personnel are invited to attend the World Trade Organization's seminar on electronic phytosanitary certification on June 28 in Geneva. The seminar takes place under the leadership of the WTO's Standards and Trade Development Facility, with a view to more deeply engaging member governments in work on electronic data exchange. Topics of discussion for the seminar will include:

- review existing international SPS and electronic data exchange standards and consider outstanding standard-setting gaps;
- review relevant initiatives aiming to streamline the automation of trade procedures and facilitate implementation of paperless trade to identify synergies and good practice; and
- present countries' experiences in the area of exchange of electronic SPS certificates, share lessons learned, discuss challenges faced and consider capacity building needs for developing countries.

A preliminary agenda can be found [here](#). Participation is done on a first come, first serve basis by May 30. If you are interested in registering for the seminar please contact the Katy Lee, Acting IGTC Secretariat at secretariat@igtglobal.org.

USAEDC Attaché Seminar

On July 13-14 the U.S. Agriculture Export Development Council (USAEDC) will be holding its USAEDC Attaché Seminar and Consultations at the Westin Arlington Gateway in Arlington, Virginia. This annual seminar is an opportunity for industry to engage with members of the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) on one-on-one and group consultations. USAEDC will be hosting one-on-one consultations between industry and FAS attachés on July 13. On July 14 a seminar training will be held for industry and attaches to address some of the issues raised. A final agenda is currently being developed.

For more information on the USAEDC Attaché Seminar please click [here](#). If you would like NAEGA to raise any specific issues with FAS attachés, please contact Gary and Ryan.

PNWER Annual Summit – July 19-21

All NAEGA members are invited to attend the Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Annual Summit in Alberta, Calgary, Canada on July 19-21. The PNWER is a non-profit created by the states, provinces and territories of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Washington, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon and Northwest to increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region, while maintaining and enhancing our natural environment. This year's Annual Summit will feature a keynote address by the U.S. Ambassador to Canada Bruce Heyman, as well as breakout sessions and policy tours on issues affecting the PNW region, including agriculture. On July 19 Gary will also present on behalf of NAEGA and IGTC on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement.

For more information on the PNWER Annual Summit, and to register, please click [here](#).

NAEGA/APPAMEX Forum – October 5-8

Please save the date for the 23rd Annual NAEGA/APPAMEX Forum to be held on October 5-8 in Cancun, Mexico. This year's forum will take place at the [Iberostar Hotel](#) in Cancun. All NAEGA member representatives and their colleagues are invited to attend. More information, including a link to registration and a preliminary agenda, will follow. A copy of last year's agenda can be found [here](#).

For more information, please contact Gary or Ryan.

Seminars and Internships

NAEGA Seminars: Please click [here](#) for more information on NAEGAs in-depth, interactive education on contract practices.

Internships: Information on working for NAEGA as an intern in our Washington, D.C. office can be found [here](#).

Full Details on Upcoming Events can be found in the Meetings & Events Section of the [NAEGA Member's Only Page](#).

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Action Reports

Treated Seed Letter

NAEGA continues efforts to communicate the need to prevent treated seeds from entering the grain supply and to continue the successful history of preventing any presence of treated seeds in U.S. exports.

Seeds for planting that are often treated with one or more pesticides include corn, sorghum, wheat, and soybeans. Maintaining the U.S. reputation for appropriately managing all pesticides is a key element in providing for customer satisfaction and official acceptance for exports. Few concerns can be as damaging to supplier reputation for quality and safety of agricultural products as one over the presence of seed treatment compounds in commodities intended for use in food and feed.

As spring planting season gets underway, it is important that we draw attention to compliance with U.S. law prohibiting the intentional addition of treated seeds to commodities and continuing the U.S. system-wide diligence that prevents treated seeds in commodity grain and oilseed shipments. NAEGA members are also asked to join the industry wide effort to communicate the need to maintain our past success, comply with U.S. law and prevent treated seeds from entering the commodity supply.

A copy of our most recent communication from NAEGA to colleagues regarding treated seeds can be found [here](#).

IGTC Newsletter

The newest edition of the IGTC Newsletter is now available! This week's newsletter includes a tribute to Geoff Honey, whose passing is a great loss to his friends in the grain trade, a report on the IGTC Strategy Session in London, and an overview of Gary's presentation at the International

Grains Council Conference. A copy of the newsletter can be found on the IGTC intranet at www.igtglobal.org or by clicking [here](#).

China Decree 177

NAEGA is closely following developments in China regarding the upcoming July 1 deadline for implementation of Decree 177. Expectation are that China's AQSIQ will announce several steps to implement Decree 177. Decree 177 lays out a regulatory framework for import to China of grains for food and feed and strengthens existing food safety laws on imported foods. More information on Decree 177 can be found in [this USDA GAIN report](#). Importantly we understand that:

1. July 1, 2016 will be the start of the facility registration process not the date by which the registration process needs to be completed.
2. AQSIQ's registration of foreign grain facilities will be implemented gradually. The time for completion is not expressed.
3. Given the complexities of the industry chain, AQSIQ wants to work with the governments of exporting countries to understand their systems and come up with an appropriate registration system.
4. As a first step, the exporting country's competent authority may choose to conduct an audit/check of exporting elevators and provide the list of exporting elevators to AQSIQ.
5. In combination with the grain facility registration system, the exporting country should set up a safety and quality traceability system for grains being exported to China.

NAEGA is working nationally, regionally and worldwide to coordinate responses and further questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your advice and questions. For more information, please contact Gary or Ryan.

NCGA Trade School

On Tuesday, June 7 Ryan presented in front of the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) Trade School at the Washington Court Hotel in Washington, D.C. During the panel discussion, which featured representatives of the rice, farmers advocate communities, Ryan discussed NAEGA's position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement whose negotiations were completed in October. The 60-member audience learned about important provision in the TPP that are valuable to the grain and oilseed export industry, including the rapid response mechanism (RRM) and provisions on regulatory coherence, risk management and assessment, biotechnology and trade facilitation.

For more information on TPP or to learn more about the agreement please contact Ryan.

DBTG Annual Meeting Trip Report

In line with NAEGA priorities to engage relevant actors and participate in international forums on international maritime regulatory issues, NAEGA Senior Advisor Jerry Cotter travelled to Rotterdam, Netherlands on April 18-23 to attend the International Bulk Terminals Group's (DBTG) Annual Operational and Technical Meeting. The DBTG is a critical and credible source of information, cooperation and influence with regard to both the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and IMO Subcommittee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers (CCC). Both bodies are addressing explosive dust cargoes and relevant shipment materials designations and management, a development that NAEGA has been following closely over the past two years in order to determine potential adverse impacts on the global GRNOS trade. In

Rotterdam Jerry presented before the conference on *UN GHS – Explosive Dust – Explanation and Current Status*, attended conference sessions and gathered market and regulatory intelligence on international maritime issues.

A trip report on the outcomes of the meeting is available [here](#). For more information, please contact Gary.

NOLA Industry Workshop

On June 8 NAEGA and the National Grain and Feed Association (NGFA) held a successful regional industry workshop in New Orleans, Louisiana. NAEGA industry workshops allow NAEGA members to discuss key regional grain and oilseed export industry concerns with NAEGA and NGFA staff as well as representatives of local, regional and the federal government. At this regional workshop, attendees included representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the Army Corps of Engineers and National Cargo Bureau on maritime security and transportation issues; USDA APHIS on phytosanitary requirements on U.S. exports; USDA FGIS on their grain inspection and international services; and U.S. FDA on product safety. News from China, Mexico and Korea was featured.

A copy of the agenda can be found [here](#). For more information on this Industry workshop or the topics discussed please contact Gary. NAEGA plans another industry workshop of the PNW region later this year. Details on this workshop will be provided as they become available.

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Future Actions

NAEGA is considering making comments on the following items. Please contact us with your advice or suggestions:

NAFTA Certificate of Origin Under Review

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is seeking comments through July 25 on a proposed extension of NAFTA Certificate of Origin and Verification of Origin Questionnaire forms. The Certificate of Origin is used in NAFTA trade to certify that a good being exported in the trilateral North American trade qualifies as an originating good for preferential trade purposed under NAFTA. The Verification Questionnaire is used to gather sufficient information from exporters and producers to determine whether goods imported into the U.S. qualify as originating goods for the purpose of preferential tariff treatment under NAFTA.

CBP is seeking comment on the proposed extension of these forms by July 25. Please let either Gary or Ryan know if you have any comments or input on these forms.

Korean Corn Buyers Team

On July 20 NAEGA will host at its Washington, D.C. office a U.S. Grains Council corn buyers team from Korea. The group includes group that includes executives from top corn buying groups and corn starch companies in South Korea and discussion will include registration requirements for Korea's Special Act on Food Safety and BCFM issues.

All NAEGA members are welcome to attend. Please contact Gary or Ryan for more information.

U.S. Soy Global Trade Exchange

NAEGA President and CEO Gary Martin, at the invitation of the U.S. Soybean Export Council (USSEC) will travel to Indianapolis, Indiana on August 31-September 1 to speak before the U.S. Soy Global Trade Exchange. Gary will be presenting on the topic *A Global View of Key Dynamics in Policy and Commerce for Grains, Oilseeds and other Agri-bulks*. Gary's presentation will include discussion on how reliable, sustainable and affordable commodity supplies are driving governments and the trade to respond and engage, including a review of key developments in commercial trade and regulation that provides for critical understanding of several important opportunities and challenges for the farmer to consumer in the soybean value chain.

If you are interested in attending the U.S. Soy Global Trade Exchange, please click [here](#). Please contact Gary if you would information or to contribute to his presentation.

Russian Suspension of U.S. Soybean Imports

NAEGA is working closely with the USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regarding the recent suspension of soybean imports into Russia by the Russian Federal Veterinary and Phytosanitary Surveillance Service (VPSS). VPSS has suspended U.S soybean imports due to the presence weed seeds, including ambrosia, in soybean shipments. This suspension of imports follows a series of letters, actions and meetings between VPSS and APHIS regarding the presence of quarantine weeds in soybean shipments, including letter in 2012, and February, March, and June of 2016. In APHIS' most recent letter on June 2 the agency lays out a point by point clarification of the information sought by APHIS regarding this emergency action and reiterates its belief that this suspension is unjustified and trade distorting under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

NAEGA will continue to follow this issue closely as events unfold. A copy of the APHIS letter to VPSS can be found [here](#). For more information, please contact Gary or Ryan.

CFTC Supplement to Position Limits Rule

On May 26 the Commodities and Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) announced that it will issue for public comment a supplement to its position limits proposal. The proposal will modify the procedures for those seeking exemptions from speculative position limits for non-enumerated bona fide hedging. The supplement would provide a new process for exchanges to recognize certain positions in commodity derivative contracts as non-enumerated bona fide hedges or enumerated anticipatory bona fide hedges, as well as to exempt from federal position limits certain spread positions, in each case subject to CFTC review.

Comments on the supplemental may be submitted electronically though the CFTC's website. If you are interested in contributing to comments on the supplemental, please contact Gary or Ryan. For more information, click [here](#).

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Information for your Consideration

U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue

On June 7 the U.S. and Chinese officials met in Beijing for the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue (SED) where they discussed a number of issues, including trade, investment economic transparency and agriculture. During the agriculture session of the SED, China committed to review applications of agricultural biotechnology products in a timely, ongoing and science-based

manner and to complete biotech approvals following the completion of assessments by the National Biosafety Committee. The U.S. committed to prepare a study on the global impact of asynchronous approvals on sustainability, trade and innovation. These developments follow October's state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping in which China committed to speed up approvals of biotech crops.

For more information on the SED or Chinese biotech approvals please click [here](#).

EU Glyphosate

On Monday, June 6 the European Commission failed to pass a renewal of the herbicide glyphosate, whose license for use in European Union countries expires at the end of the month. In the vote for a short term extension of the license the vast majority of the EU member states voted for renewal of glyphosate, however the vote failed to receive the proper population threshold for ratification. Failure of this vote at the Commission level follows the European Parliament Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety's passage of a non-binding resolution opposing the renewal. NAEGA has been monitoring this situation and working with IGTC partner COCERAL, which issued a statement in April calling on European officials to abide by commitments to science based decision making.

For more on glyphosate regulation in the EU, click [here](#). To read COCERAL's April statement on glyphosate, click [here](#).

If you would like more information, or wish to provide comments on any of these news topics monitored by NAEGA, please contact us.

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Calendar & Member Notices

Click [here](#) for a Copy of the IGTC Calendar

2016

June

28 – WTO Conference on Electronic Phytosanitary Certifications – Geneva – All NAEGA Members invited to attend.

June- October

TBD – Regional Workshop USG Government Agencies and Industry– Pacific Northwest

July

6-8 – UN GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland – Cotter Attending.

13-14 – USAEDC Attaché Seminar – Westin Gateway Arlington – Arlington, VA.

14-15 – China International Cereals and Oils Industry Summit – Chengdu, China

17-21 – Pacific Northwest Economic Region Annual Summit – Calgary, Alberta, Canada – Gary presenting.

20 – U.S. Grains Council Corn Buyers Team Meeting – Washington, D.C. – 9:00am-10:00am

25 – Customs and Border Protection comments due on NAFTA certificates of origin.

August

31-September 1 – U.S. Soy Global Trade Exchange – Indianapolis, Indiana – Please register [here](#).

August-September

TBD – IGTC General Assembly and Strategy Session

TBD – NAEGA Board Meeting

September

TBD – IMO Subcommittee on the Carriage of Cargoes and Containers Meeting – London, United Kingdom – Cotter Attending.

October

5-8 – NAEGA/APPAMEX Forum, Iberostar Hotel, Cancun, Mexico.

November

8 – Election Day – U.S. House, Senate and Presidential elections.

December

7-9 – UN GHS Subcommittee Meeting – Geneva, Switzerland – Cotter Attending.

2017

March

19-21 – NGFA Annual Convention – New Orleans, LA

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